

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EB-11 IGA-02 L-03 AGR-20 DRC-01 RSC-01

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P R 101650Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2542

INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

UNCLAS MONROVIA 4011

E.P.11652: N/A

SUBJ: WARDA PROP DESIGN TEAM

REF: STATE 145938

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF REFTEL WITH ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF WARDA AND UNDP SENIOR ADVISOR, WARDA AND MISSION UNABLE CONCUR WITH TIMING PROPOSED FOR SUBJECT TEAM. GIVEN RELEVANT FACTORS OF PERSONNEL AVAILABILITY AND NEED FOR COORDINATING VISIT WITH WARDA'S EXISTING PLANNED PROGRAMS, ONE MONTH POSTPONEMENT TO APPROXIMATELY WEEK OF AUGUST 18 DESIRABLE. IN ADDITION, POSTPONEMENT WILL GIVE MISSION OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE WITH AID/W OUTSTANDING ISSUES RE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY FOR AID-SUPPORTED WARDA ACTIVITIES.

ACTION REQUESTED: POSTPONEMENT ARRIVAL OF SUBJECT TEAM IN MONROVIA TO WEEK OF AUGUST 18 AND CLARIFICATION OF ROLES OF VARIOUS AID PLAYERS IN WARDA SCENARIO. END SUMMARY.

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2. CONTENTS OF REFTEL DISCUSSED WITH WARDA ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GUY MIQUAL IN ABSENCE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JACQUES DIOUF AND HIS DEPUTY LEKAN ARE. MIQUAL INDICATED WARDA WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE PROVIDING ONE VEHICLE AND SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE, PROVIDED TEAM VISIT NOT MADE DURING PEAK ACTIVITY PERIOD, E.E., IF TEAM CAN COMPLETE ITS WORK PRIOR INITIATION OF PREPARATIONS FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR IBADAN BEGINNING EARLY NOVEMBER) WHICH GET UNDERWAY IN LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER. HOWEVER, MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS, GIVEN TIMING OF PROPOSED VISIT, ARE CONFLICT WITH CONVENING OF WARDA'S ANNUAL RESEARCH REVIEW CONFERENCE JULY 15 TO 19 AND SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE OF EXSEC DIOUF ON JULY 24 TO ATTEND TAC/CGIAR MEETING IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH EXACT TIMING DIOUF RETURN TO MONROVIA NOT KNOWN, WE UNDERSTAND HE PLANNING VISIT SEVERAL DONOR COUNTRIES FOLLOWING TAC MEETING. DIOUF WILL RETURN TO MONROVIA FROM VACATION ON JULY 12 AND WE WILL ENDEAVOR OBTAIN AND ADVISE YOU OF FIRM SCHEDULE AT THAT TIME. DEPUTY EXSEC ALSO IN UNITED STATES AND WILL NOT RETURN MONROVIA UNTIL AT LEAST MIDDLE OF AUGUST.

3. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION, ALTHOUGH NOT CRITICAL TO DRAFTING OF PROP, IS FACT THAT PLANTINGS AT MOST FIELD STATIONS EITHER RECENTLY COMPLETED OR NOW UNDERWAY AND, UNTIL VISIBLE GROWTH OCCURS, PROPOSED VISITS TO FIELD STATIONS WOULD BE OF REDUCED VALUE. TEAM SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT FIELD VISITS DURING RAINY SEASON SOMEWHAT DICEY DUE LACK OF GOOD ALL-WEATHER TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TO SOME AREAS.

4. ADDITIONAL FACTOR WHICH RECOMMENDS DELAY IN TEAM VISIT IS RECENT HIRING OF NEW ACCOUNTANT, WHO HAS BEEN ON JOB ONLY TWO WEEKS, AND ON-GOING REVISION OF WARDA ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATION INTO SYSTEM. IN SOMEWHAT SIMILAR SITUATION, NEW CHIEF OF RESEARCH DIVISION EXPECTED ARRIVE MONROVIA MIDDLE/LATE JULY. HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SUBJECT TEAM'S VISIT WILL BE ENHANCED BY ADDITIONAL TIME TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH SPECIFICS OF WARDA RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

5. FOR REASONS CITED ABOVE, BOTH WARDA AND MISSION RECOMMEND POSTPONEMENT OF SUBJECT TEAM VISIT UNTIL APPROXIMATELY WEEK OF AUGUST 18. VISIT AT THAT TIME WILL ALSO BE BETTER FOR MISSION, SINCE USAID PROJECT MANAGER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH TEAM

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AND IT LIKELY NEW MISSION DIRECTOR WILL BE ABOARD. IN SAME VEIN, MONROVIA MISSION STILL UNCLEAR RE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NARA, CWA, AND USAID/L. BETWEEN NOW AND TIME SUBJECT TEAM ARRIVES IT ESSENTIAL THAT AID/W MAKE CLEAR THESE RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS MAKE FIRM ASSIGNMENT OF AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AID-FINANCED WARDA ACTIVITIES. IT OUR OPINION, SINCE WARDA PROJECT ASSIGNED TO USAID/L, THAT CLEAR STATEMENT RE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR ROLES AND AN OPEN EXCHANGE OF THEIR IDEAS

AND CONCERNS IS MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

6. EMBASSY CONCURS.
MANFULL

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